UNWRITTEN HISTORY

AN IMPORTANT MISSION PRECEDING THE OCCUPATION OF SUMTER.

Don Carlos Baell's Visit to Major Ander sen, at Port Mouftrie, with Instructions from Secretary Floyd-An Important Document Never Before Published.

The great generals of the late war are rapidly passing away, and there are now living very few who achieved any considerable distinction in the fearful struggle between the states. Major General Don Carlos Buell, although seventy-four years of age, is still enjoying excellent health at his home in Muhlenburg county, Ky. General Buell's connection with some of the great campaigns of the civil war has passed into history, but the following statement of a fact which had an important and direct bearing upon the momentous events of the four succeeding years, is herewith published for the first time:

Early in December, 1860, about one month after Lincoln's election as president, a cabinet meeting was held to consider the situation in Charleston harbor, where Major Anderson occupied For Moultrie with a garrison of but 101 men It was decided to send a discreet and able officer with verbal instructions to Anderson. In the very nature of things, Anderson's conduct in the future was to large discretionary. The mission was of the most delicate nature, and it was a great compliment to Buell, then major, that he was selected. Secretary of War



Floyd had a long interview with Buell, and went over the ground very thoroughly with him, explaining his views in detail, so that there might be no misunderstanding in a matter fraught with so much importance to the nation. Buell proceeded to Fort Moultrie, and

after communicating the verbal instruc-

tions to Anderson, suggested that he ought to have some written evidence of them, and then, without awaiting a reply, drew up the following document: You are aware of the great anxiety of the secretary of war that a collision of the troops with the people of this state shall be avoided, and of his studied determination to pursue a course with reference to the military force and forts in this harbor which shall guard against such collision. He has therefore carefully abstained from increasing the force at this point, or taking any measures which might add to the present excited state of the public mind, or which would throw any doubt on the coafidence he feels that South Carolina will not attempt by violence to obtain possession of the public works or interfere with their occupancy. But as the counsel and acts of rash and impulsive persons may possibly disappoint these expectations of the government, he

bally, to give you such instructions. You are carefully to avoid every act which would needlessly tend to provoke aggression. and for that reason you are not, without evident and imminent necessity, to take up any position which could be construed into the assumption of a hostile attitude. But you are to hold possession of the forts in this harbor, and if attacked to defend yourself to the last extremity. The smallness of your force will not permit you perhaps to occupy more than one of the three forts, but an attack on or an attempt to take possession of any one of them will be regarded as an act of hostility, and you may then put your command into either of them which you may deem most proper to increase its power of resistance. You are also authorized to take similar steps whenever you

deems it proper that you should be prepared

with instructions to meet so unhappy a con-

tingency. He has therefore directed me, ver-

have tangible evidence of a design to proceed to a hostile act.

D. C. BUELL Assistant Adjutant General. Fort Moultrie, S. C., Dec. 11, 1860. This is an exact copy of the original instructions now on file in the war de-

partment. The secretary of war appended the following:

This is in conformity to my instructions to JOHN B. FLOYD. Secretary of War.

Major Buell returned to Washington, arriving there on the 13th of December. One week afterward South Carolina seceded, and six days after that Major Anderson spiked the cannon, burned the abandoned Fort Moultrie and trans-ferred his forces to Sumter. The press instantly declared that Major Anderson had acted without orders. Mr. Buchanan called upon God to witness that it was not only without but against his orders and against his policy. Secretary Floyd also said that Anderson had acted without orders. The cabinet was called together immediately. As the members assembled Major Buell was sent for, and he came at once to the

As the members proceeded to the room the criticisms upon Anderson's movements were severe and general. All seemed to think that he had acted without orders. Secretary Floyd was loudly condemnatory of Anderson's action. The existence of the order of Dec. 11, transmitted to Major Anderson by Major Buell, seemed to be ignored or forgotten, when the attention of the cabinet was called to them by Judge Black. The order was at once produced from the war department. The paper itself contained the indorsement of the secretary of war, who had probably never looked over it all. He immediately demanded that the president should compel Anderson to retrace his steps and re-enter Moultrie, and when Judge Black and Edwin M. Stanton stood up and prevented Mr. Buchanan from complying with his wishes, he re-

signed his place in the cabinet. A. N. ELLIS.

Housewifely English Sparrows. A loving student of the English sparrow as the bird is to be seen in Brooklyn finds that the little creature has in his domestic relations many human traits. When the sparrows are mating and building the male sinks into insignificance beside the female. When a nesting place is to be selected the male looks jauntily about and is ready to accept anything that comes to hand, but the hen examines each proposed site with critical care, apparently studies the relations of the place to sun, wind and rain, and finally decides the question with small consideration for the opinions of her spouse.

When the nest is to be built the housewifely character of the hen again asserts itself. She is busy all day long gathering sticks and straws to serve as building material. Nothing is taken haphazard, but every stick or straw fits to a nicety and is admirably adapted to the end for which it is selected. As to the male, he gives moral support and little else. While the hen is devoting all her energies to the task in hand he sits on a neighboring bough and encourages her with music. Nor does she expect or wish more at his hands.

Now and then, apparently pricked by conscience, he leaves his perch, picks up clumsy stick or straw and carries it to the scene of the building operations. But his contribution is seldom received with favor. The hen usually examines it with the ill concealed scorn that wives sometimes accord to domestic performances of husbands, and in nine cases out of ten she tosses away the proffered material as soon as the back of her spouse is turned. - New York Sun.

A Cowboy's Sense of Humor.

A globe trotting Englishman told me this story: "To show you that the cowboys are not as bad as they have been painted—in fact, that they are opposed to anything like lawbreaking and violence-let me relate an incident. There was a poor clerk standing up over his books at a desk in a shop on the main street, and there was a cowboy riding up and down the street. Well, the cowboy saw the clerk and his sense of humor was aroused by the idea of shooting at him, d'you know. Those cowboys have a very remarkable sense of humor. So the cowboy ups with his pistol, d'you know, and he shoots the poor clerk right through the head, killing him instantly. "Well, now, that sort of thing is very

distinctly frowned upon by cowboys, as a rule, and in this case the cowboys held a meeting and resolved that the fellow with the lively but dangerous sense of humor should be hanged at once. They put a rope around his neck, and there being no tree anywhere in sight they hung him to the side of a Pullman as the train came rolling in. I've seen a number of occurrences of that sort. which makes me quite positive in stat ing that though they are a very rum sort of beggars they are really not a bad lot."-Julian Ralph in Harper's Weekly

A Lazy, Though Shrewd Fellow. Tulkinson-a barrister and bachelor combined, by the way-is a very systematic man. The other day he had his house fitted with electrical appliances, and giving instructions to his servant Joseph, he said:

"Now I want you to understand. Joseph, that when I ring once that means for you, and when I ring twice that means for Maggie, the housemaid." Joseph, who is the laziest wretch that

ever accepted wages he did not earn, bowed respectfully and withdrew. A little later the bell rang. Joseph never moved. Presently it rang again, and according to instructions Maggie came hurrying to her master, who was very "Why didn't that rascal, Joseph, come

when I rang for him?" said the barrister bachelor disgustedly.

"Why, sir," answered Maggie, "Joseph is busy in the office reading your newspaper. When he heard the first ring he said to me, 'Now, Maggie, wait until he rings the second time, and then it will be you he wants." -- London Tit-

Strange Cave Dwellers in Spain. At a meeting of the Royal Geographcal society, of Madrid, Dr. Bide gave an account of his exploration of a wild district in the province of Caceres, which he represented as still inhabited by a strange people who speak a curious patois and live in caves and inaccessible retreats. They have a hairy skin and The HARDEST and Best Prepared have hitherto displayed a strong repugnance to mixing with their Spanish and Portugese neighbors. Roads have lately been pushed into the district inhabited by the "Jurdes," and they are beginning to learn the Castilian language gun carriages cut down the flagstaff, and attend the fairs and markets .-W. H. Larrabee in Popular Science

> The Growth of Railroad Mileage. In 1830 there were twenty-three miles of railway in operation in the United States. By 1832 the mileage had increased to 229 miles, and in 1835 the country had 1,098 miles of railroad. The first through railroad from the east westward was completed in 1842 between Boston and Albany, connecting at the latter place with the Erie canal. In the same year the last link of the line from Albany to Buffalo was opened. At the end of 1848 the total mileage of all the railroads in the country was 5,996 miles. or about 500 miles more than there are now in the state of Nebraska.-Edward Rosewater's Omaha Address.

> > The Flute Is Very Old.

The flute is very old in its origin, but the flute of today is different from that of the ancients. It has been improved upon from time to time, and the old people would probably fail to recognize it now. The flageolet, which is somewhat similar, is credited to Juvigny about 1581 .- Harper's Young People.

Tall Men in Asia and Africa. The tallest men of South America are found in the western provinces of the Argentine Republic, of Asia in Afghanistan and Kaypootana, of Africa in the highlands of Abyssinia.—Yankee Blade.

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